

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Claims 1-21 (canceled)

22. (Currently amended) A head protective equipment, comprising:

- a breathing mask connectable to a breathing-gas source and adapted to be applied, in a use position, over a bottom part of a user's face, around the user's nose and mouth, for supplying said user with breathing gas,

- an eye protective shield adapted to be applied over a top part of said user's face, around the user's eyes, and

- first and second lock elements, respectively located on said mask and on said shield and adapted to cooperate with each other in order to secure said shield to said mask when said mask is in said use position on said user's face, wherein said first and second lock elements are adapted to engage and interlock with each other by a movement of bringing said shield closer to said mask, said movement having a downward component, with reference to said face top and bottom parts, and being directed along a first oblique direction oriented toward an inside of said mask.

23. (Currently amended) The protective equipment as claimed in claim 22, wherein said second lock element comprises a nipple extending, starting from said shield, in a said first oblique direction ~~comprising a downwardly directed component, with reference to said face top and bottom parts.~~

24. (Currently amended) The protective equipment as claimed in claim 23, wherein said mask comprises a substantially conical cavity narrowing toward said first lock

element in order to guide said nipple of said second lock element toward said first lock element arranged at a bottom of said cavity, in said movement of bringing said shield toward said mask.

25. (Currently amended) The protective equipment as claimed in claim 21 ~~23~~, wherein said nipple is adapted to move longitudinally, substantially in said first oblique direction, between a locked position and an unlocked position, within a grasping unit if said shield comprising grasping surfaces for a user's fingers.

26. (Currently amended) The protective equipment as claimed in claim 25, provided with a push-button placed and movable substantially between said grasping surfaces and manually operable in order to move said nipple from said locked position to said unlocked position.

27. Canceled without prejudice

28. (Currently amended) The equipment as claimed in claim 23, wherein said mask has guidance surfaces, diverging from a ridge adapted to be situated substantially in coincidence with ~~said a~~ user's nose bridge, and said nipple is flanked by two ~~wings~~ side parts that are adapted to be substantially symmetrical with respect to a median plane of symmetry of said user's face when the equipment is being worn by said user, said ~~wings~~ side parts extending between a high end close to said nipple and a low end distant from said nipple and ~~becoming~~ adapted to become more distant from said median plane toward said low end, in order to allow the guidance, by said guidance surfaces, of the positioning of said shield on said mask.

29. (Currently amended) The equipment as claimed in claim 22, comprising a push-button acting as a locking indicator and adapted to control blocking, in an active position, of any movement of said first lock element with respect to said second lock

element, said ~~locking indicator~~ push-button being in said active position only when said mask and said shield are secured to each other by a mutual interlocking of complementary shapes of said first and second lock elements.

30. (Previously presented) The protective equipment as claimed in claim 22, wherein said first and second lock elements are adapted to allow a movement of said shield with respect to said mask, and to favor the application of said shield over said user's face.

31. (Previously presented) The protective equipment as claimed in claim 30, wherein said first and second lock elements are mobile with respect to each other, about a horizontal axis, by means of two links.

32. (Currently amended) The protective equipment as claimed in claim 22 wherein said, mask comprises a locking ramp adapted to guide an attachment nose comprising said second lock element of said shield toward a locked position of said shield on said mask, while said shield is moving toward said mask, and wherein said locking ramp has a first branch superimposed with said first lock element and which is oriented with a component that is downward and toward an interior of said mask, said locking ramp having a second branch oriented downward from a free end of said first branch .

33. Canceled without prejudice

34. (Previously presented) The protective equipment as claimed in claim 30, comprising spring means adapted to bring said shield toward said user's face, when said shield is secured to said mask and when said mask is worn by said user.

35. (Previously presented) The protective equipment as claimed in claim 30, comprising a harness fitted with straps adapted to maintain said mask in said use position on said user's head and in which said shield comprises two guidance members adapted for each

one respectively to become inserted under a strap of said harness when putting said shield into position on said mask.

36. (Previously presented) The protective equipment as claimed in claim 35, wherein said guidance members are adapted to cause said straps, under which said guidance members are inserted while said shield is being put into position on said mask, to rise over sides of said shield.

37.-40. Cancelled without prejudice

41. (Currently amended) An eye-protective shield support assembly, said assembly comprising:

- a support, comprising a first lock element as part of a means of attaching,
- an eye-protective shield, ~~and~~ comprising a second lock element, said
- first lock element being adapted to cooperate with said ~~and~~ second lock elements, ~~situated on said support and on said shield respectively and adapted to cooperate with each other~~ in order to secure said shield to said support, wherein said

first lock element ~~and second lock elements~~ are adapted to engage and to interlock with ~~each other~~ said second lock element by a movement of bringing said shield closer to said support, said movement having a downward component directed toward an inside of said support in order to fix said shield to said support when said shield is not secured to a mask.

42. (Currently amended) The support assembly as claimed in claim 41 further comprising a means of attaching said mask that are is independent of said means of attaching said shield and adapted to make it possible to detach said mask from said support without necessarily detaching said shield from said support.

43. (New) The protective equipment as claimed in claim 23, wherein said first lock element comprises a first ramp which is circular and continuous about said first oblique direction, and wherein the nipple is engaged in a locked position with said ramp.